

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18 without prejudice and amends claims 10 and 17. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended the title of the present application without prejudice and essentially in the manner requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner objected to claims 8, 10 and 17. Applicant has canceled claim 8. With respect to claim 10, Applicant notes that claim 10 recites "a focus servomechanism" and not "a focus servomechanisms" as the Examiner contends. With respect to claim 17, Applicant has amended it in the manner requested. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 7 has been canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Honda et al. (US 2002/0191517). Claims 1-9 and 11-16 have been canceled.

The Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Honda in view of Izumi et al. (US 5,859,824). Applicant has amended claim 10 to place it in independent form. As the Examiner noted, the rejection may be overcome pursuant to § 103(c). The present application and Honda were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same organization, i.e., Yamaha. Proof of common ownership can be found at Reel/Frame 014942/0551 for the present application and Reel/Frame 013190/0589 for Honda. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Honda in view of Katsuyama et al. (US 4,723,234). Applicant has amended claim 17 to place it in independent form. As the Examiner noted, the rejection may be overcome pursuant to § 103(c). The present application and Honda were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by, or

subject to an obligation of assignment to the same organization, i.e., Yamaha. Proof of common ownership can be found at Reel/Frame 014942/0551 for the present application and Reel/Frame 013190/0589 for Honda. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicant notes with appreciation the courtesy of the Examiner during the telephone interview on August 3. The Examiner indicated that claim 18 is rejected in the same manner as claim 1. Applicant hereby cancels claim 18.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032039600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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